

and environmental communities, Members of Congress, the administration, and our colleagues in India to reduce the threat of global climate change, to develop alternative forms of energy for the industrial, transportation, building and utility sectors, and to better protect our environment for the current and future generations.

To this end, I pledge to work here at home to pass environmentally-sound legislation and budgetary items, and prevent passage of harmful antienvironmental riders. Abroad, we will work cooperatively and collectively to reduce threats to our global environment.

As we celebrate today and through the rest of this month of April the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, I would urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make a similar commitment and join me in protecting our environment and energy security to the next 30 years.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PALLONE. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, since the gentleman from New Jersey raised these important environmental issues, I know he has been a spokesperson, a very effective advocate for the environment for some years. At some times on that and some of the health care issues, it puts him in a position that has been adverse to the insurance lobby.

I am wondering if the gentleman from New Jersey is familiar with the 527 clandestine political organizations and if they played any role in New Jersey politics, in political pollution because of the gentleman's fight against environmental pollution.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me say I agree 100 percent with what my colleagues said about these corporations and this tax loophole. Back in November of 1998, I was hit the last 2 weeks of the campaign with a \$5 million independent expenditure by a group like this that was obviously taking advantage of the fact that there was no disclosure under the campaign finance laws. We were able to determine that much of the money was from the insurance industry, particularly the HMOs, as well as we think from the prescription drug industry. But to this day I cannot verify that because the fact of the matter is there is no disclosure. I believe very strongly if we had disclosure along the lines of what the gentleman from Texas suggested, a lot of this veiled campaign money would not be spent.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, they could put pretty names on their committee that appears in the mailers and on TV and attack you, however, without disclosing who gave them the dirty money.

DISCLOSURE OF 527 ORGANIZATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), who has taken a leadership role on the important issue of improved campaign finance disclosure. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the proposal he discussed recently, and I hope it will quickly be approved by the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans have lost faith in our political system. Routinely, half of those eligible to vote do not. People feel our political system is at best irrelevant and at worst shot full of corruption. Our country is better than that, and our people deserve better.

Last September, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the Shays-Meehan bill, which would have dramatically reformed the campaign finance system. It would have rid our system of soft money and severely limited independent expenditures. But similar efforts died by a narrow majority in the Senate.

Though Shays-Meehan remains a necessary reform, a new type of political organization threatens the integrity of our campaign finance process, our electoral process. Known as 527s and named after the provision of the Tax Code under which they are created, these organizations contend they can accept unlimited funds and never disclose the names of donors, the amount of contributions, or how the money is spent.

This is possible because, while these groups qualify as political committees under the Tax Code, they are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Election Commission. These organizations have caught the eye of many observers, not the least of which is the Joint Committee on Taxation.

When I was running for Congress, people told me how fed up they were with the system. Public cynicism and apathy eat away at voter participation and cause citizens to tune out of discussions of very serious issues. It has turned a whole generation of young people away from politics as a means of governance and social change.

Simply put, the current campaign laws alienate voters. I am hoping this legislation, or new legislation, I drafted will begin to restore public trust and will also take congressional seats off the 527 auction block.

This bill and my bill, called the Campaign Integrity Act of 2000, would require 527s to meet the disclosure and reporting requirements of the Federal Election Campaign Act. This proposal would rewrite the Internal Revenue Code section 527 definition of political organizations to require public disclosure of the names of contributors and

the sums contributed. Violations would result in the loss of the organization's tax exempt status.

This bill will not cure all of the ills of the campaign finance system but instead represents two very important and necessary goals. First, this act closes the 527 loophole and reestablishes in our country the principle that campaigns will be subject to scrutiny. Secondly, this bill requires and represents a reasonable political compromise that, in the absence of more comprehensive reform, gives Congress the opportunity to make upcoming elections more open, fair, and honest.

To those who cling to free speech, an argument against reform, this legislation would not impose limitations on contributions to 527s and, therefore, will not interfere in anybody's first amendment right. It would simply require full disclosure, forcing those who wish to exercise this type of expression to show their face just like everybody else has to do.

My colleagues and I are urging other Members and pro-reform organizations to join in this effort. It is high time that Congress shine light on 527s and tell special interest groups that the American people are our special interest.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MOORE. Certainly, I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership. I know he has already done two articles on this. He has developed a legislative solution on this.

You mentioned our efforts during the last session to try to approve the McCain-Feingold bill, the Shays-Meehan bill, as we call it here in the House, major campaign reform.

Does the gentleman recall that there were those on the Republican side who opposed that legislation, saying that all we needed was to have instant disclosure, complete disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures?

Mr. MOORE. I do recall that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, are we not basically taking them up on their word, but saying let us apply it across the board, and let us include these new secret organizations, covert operations that are occurring as 527s? All we are asking is complete and instant disclosure in our legislative approach.

Mr. MOORE. Absolutely. Mr. Speaker, I just do not see how any reasonable person can say that full disclosure of the names of persons who contribute and the amounts contributed can in any way interfere with anybody's right to free speech or the other objectives they have. I think this is something that people in this country deserve.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I pulled up George W. Bush's campaign Web page; and he claims that he favors, "near instant disclosure of the names of contributors on the Internet." If our Republican colleagues would join with

us, could we not do this right now on these 527 organizations and require that instant disclosure over the Internet in both the spirit of JOHN MCCAIN and the campaign Web site of George W. Bush?

Mr. MOORE. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL TEAM, KEEP SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENT, AND ABOLISH CENSUS LONG FORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this is a little bit on the lighter side but also on the heavier side, sort of like sweet and sour. But I want to congratulate my alma mater, Michigan State University, for the excellent game that they played last night for their championship now in the college athletic contests of who does the great job in basketball. So I say congratulations to Michigan State.

I see some Michigan people up in the balcony. I know we all have pride when we support a team that, well, has honesty in their heart and knowledge and conviction and strength. It does take determination and conviction and strength.

Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to know that I tried to make some wagers last night on the Michigan State-Florida game. First, I went to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), and I said to him, if Michigan State wins, then he would have to pass my Social Security bill. He did not think that was the right kind of wager.

So then I went to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and said, well, how about a wager; and if Michigan State wins, he has to do away with the long form on the census. The gentleman from Florida did not think that was right.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to just comment on those two issues.

The long form on the census, which, on the average, one out of six Americans gets, is very intrusive. It approaches a kind of bureaucratic curiosity, wondering all about people, from whether they have mental problems, whether they have a tough time remembering, whether they have difficult times going out of doors and going to a doctor.

We need to have an accurate count on our census, but we do not need to ask every American household in the United States all of these intrusive questions. Those kinds of questions can be accomplished by polling, by sampling, and that is the way we should do it from now on.

That is why the Census Bureau, that is why the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and his committee are looking at options to make sure we no

longer have the long form in future years.

Look, we have got a government that is intrusive. Our technology today allows us to peek into everybody's lives. So our technology can listen in on one's phone calls, even if they are cell phones. We have a capacity of knowing what doctors one uses, when one goes to those doctors, and what one goes to those doctors for.

I think with the high-tech that we have today, we should be especially conscious of this kind of government intrusion. I think why American people, Mr. Speaker, are more suspicious today is because they have lost some of their confidence and trust in government.

Let me just finish off with a comment on my wager to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), who is on the Committee on Ways and Means and chairs the subcommittee that oversees Social Security. Last week, we had sort of a placebo set out by the Social Security Administration that said, look, it is not going to be 2013 when Social Security brings in less revenues than is needed to pay benefits, but it is actually going to be 2015.

I just would like to say with all the force that I have, Mr. Speaker, that it is so important that we not put this off. If there is one disappointment in this administration, it is the President's unwillingness to come forth with a proposal that can keep Social Security solvent for the next 75 years.

I see a lot of young people in the audience. I see some seniors. Social Security and the willingness of Congress to make sure it survives is important to all groups. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that this House would have the courage to move ahead with Social Security reform next year.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Father Richard Doerr, Diocese of Lafayette-In-Indiana, Carmel, Indiana, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, You are author of life and origin of all created things.

We ask that Your grace and blessing be bestowed upon the men and women who have been called to serve our country in the House of Representatives.

Help them to represent their constituents wisely with an eye toward

safeguarding the deeper truths of human life that come only from You.

Bless the regions that they represent. Bless our country. Help our legislators to enact laws that will uphold the values of peace and justice in our land and throughout the world. We ask this in God's name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

BELINDA MCGREGOR

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 452) for the relief of Belinda McGregor.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 758) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 758

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ENTITLEMENT TO WIDOW'S INSURANCE BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of determining the eligibility of Nancy B. Wilson, the wife of Alphonse M. Wilson (social security number 000-00-0000), to widow's insurance benefits under section 202(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(e)), Nancy B. Wilson shall be deemed to have been married to Alphonse M. Wilson for a period of not less than 9 months immediately prior to the day on which Alphonse M. Wilson died.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) takes effect on March 21, 1991.

(c) PAYMENT.—Any benefits to which Nancy B. Wilson is entitled for the period prior to the date of the enactment of this Act shall be paid to her in a lump sum.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the